

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANAA 01716 021054Z

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 AGR-20 SR-02

ORM-03 EB-11 HEW-08 SCSE-00 SCA-01 RSR-01 /159 W

----- 122084

R 020850Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2663

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS SANAA 1716

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, YE

SUBJ: FLOODS IN YEMEN

REF: GENEVA 4611

1. WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH UN RESREP WHO PROVIDED SAME INFORMATION AS INCLUDED REFTEL. ACCORDING TO HIM, FLOODS OCCURRED ON AUGUST 4 BUT, DUE TO REMOTENESS OF REGION, EVEN CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY DEPUTY FOR AREA DID NOT LEARN OF DISASTER UNTIL AUGUST 15. YARG CENTRAL GOVT DID NOT FOCUS ON PROBLEM UNTIL AUGUST 28 WHEN IT CONFERRED WITH UN RESREP. HE, ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE, DISPATCHED OBSERVER TO AREA AROUND AUGUST 23 FOR ONE DAY AND IS SENDING LARGER TEAM SHORTLY.

2. ACCORDING RESREP IMMEDIATE FOOD PROBLEM SEEMS TO BE THAT VALLEYS ARE NOT CONNECTED WITH YAR BY ROAD. ICRC HAS PROVIDED FOOD AND YARG HAS DIVERTED RECENTLY ARRIVED RUSSIAN WHEAT TO FEED INHABITANTS WHOSE FIELDS HAVE BEEN DESTROYED, BUT DISTRIBUTION IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT AND COSTLY (4.50 DOS PER BAG OF WHEAT BY PACK ANIMAL). YARG CONSIDERING REQUESTING DIVERSION OF CRS FOOD-FOR-WORK SUPPLIES IN TAIZ AREA DESIGNATED FOR ROAD BUILDING TO CONSTRUCT FIFTEEN KILOMETER ROAD TO CONNECT VALLEYS. EMBASSY AND CRS PREPARED TO RESPOND FAVORABLY AS SOON AS YARG DECIDES ON COURSE OF ACTION.

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PAGE 02 SANAA 01716 021054Z

3. LONGER-TERM PROBLEM IS THAT THIS IS HEAVILY-POPULATED AREA WITH NOW LARGELY DESTROYED CASH ECONOMY. HILLSIDE TERRACES, NOW WASHED AWAY, HAD PROVIDED FOOD TO VALLEY DWELLERS WHO EXCHANGED LOCALLY GROWN FRUIT IN ADEN (TO WHICH VALLEYS CONNECTED BY TRACK) FOR GRAINS AND OTHER FOOD IMPORTS. FRUIT TREES APPARENTLY ALSO DESTROYED BY FLOOD ALONG WITH ALMOST ALL LIVESTOCK. REBUILDING OF TERRACES AND ORCHARDS IS OBVIOUSLY LONG-TERM PROSPECT. IN MEANTIME SOME MEANS WILL NEED TO BE FOUND TO SUPPORT POPULATION.

4. AS NOTED ABOVE WE PREPARED TO RESPOND TO SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM NEEDS, IN COORDINATION WITH UN, AS SOON AS YARG IS ABLE TO COME TO GRIPS WITH PROBLEM AND DECIDE ON COURSES OF ACTION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISASTER RELIEF, DISASTER REPORTS, FLOODS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SANAA01716
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SANAA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730958/aaaabqgl.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: GENEVA 4611
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10-Sep-2001 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <28 FEB 2002 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FLOODS IN YEMEN
TAGS: EAID, SWEL, YE, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005